

HONORING ROSS ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

## HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ross Elementary School in Marin County for its recognition on May 3, 2018 as a 2018 California Distinguished School by the California Department of Education. Chosen for its exemplary high performance, as measured by state and national assessments, Ross Elementary School was one of 287 schools to attain this honor statewide. This highly competitive award reflects outstanding achievement and the highest caliber of professional service, family commitment, and community engagement.

With 366 students, Ross Elementary School offers comprehensive educational programs that academically challenge and instill a joy of learning in its students while ensuring that all children have the skills and knowledge to reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, this hard-earned distinction reflects true community success. From the students and their families, to the staff and administrators, and the extended community, Ross Elementary School has developed an education model for the state and the nation: empowering today's students to be tomorrow's problem-solvers, inventors, and pioneers. Please join me in congratulating Ross Elementary School on this impressive achievement.

## HONORING DR. SILVIA M. DIEGO

## HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Dr. Silvia M. Diego for receiving the John Darroch Memorial Award for Physician of the Year from the Stanislaus Medical Society; and to personally thank her for her years of service working to better the lives of residents in the Central Valley and the state of California.

Silvia Diego grew up in a small town in the San Joaquin valley as the daughter of farm worker parents. She attended Fresno State University and, with the love and support of her family, was able to receive a Bachelor of Arts in Biology in 1989. She later went on to earn her medical degree from the Stanford University School of Medicine in 1994.

After receiving her medical degree, Dr. Diego returned to the Central Valley to serve the impoverished and uninsured residents of the region. In 1996 she began working with Golden Valley Health Centers, where she would go on to serve as Clinical Director, Associate Medical Director, and as Chief Medical Officer. In 2014 she opened a private medical practice in Modesto, CA where she continues to serve disadvantaged members of the community.

Throughout her time as a physician, Dr. Silvia Diego has received numerous awards and honors. In 2009 she was appointed to the Medical Board of California, and in 2018 she

was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Faculty Award from the University of California, Davis.

Since 1998, the Stanislaus Medical Society has bestowed the John Darroch Memorial Award to physicians who demonstrate professionalism, dedication to patients, collegial support and community involvement. Dr. Diego has exemplified all of these excellent qualities throughout her medical career, and I can think of no one more deserving of this distinguished honor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing Dr. Silvia M. Diego for her unwavering leadership, many accomplishments, and contributions on behalf of God, the community, and the Nation.

God bless her always.

## TRIBUTE TO HEATHER CALKINS

## HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Heather Calkins. She will be presented with the Begie Hefner Volunteer Award from the Salvation Army at their annual dinner on May 9, 2018.

Heather has helped for years with the week-long Christmas sign-ups for Toy Shop and helps at the shop. She is a leader in the Corps and works with one of the youth groups every Wednesday night.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Heather Calkins for receiving this outstanding award and for her continued commitment to making her community better. I am proud to represent her, and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Heather Calkins and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF  
2018

SPEECH OF

## HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2018*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 4). Since 2012, Congress has been unable to pass a long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). It is long overdue that we continue to ensure safe skies for the American people while also providing stability for our air traffic controllers. This legislation reauthorizes the FAA through 2023 and will offer the funding reliability needed to make improvements to our airports and air transportation infrastructure. I am also pleased that Republican Leadership abandoned their long-standing push to privatize America's air traffic control system which would have been downright fiscally irresponsible.

H.R. 4 also includes a number of amendments unrelated to FAA reauthorization. One

amendment that I support is the important disaster relief and recovery provisions that will directly help Americans in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and others around the country who remain vulnerable to natural disasters. These amendments to the Stafford Act will help communities rebuild from disasters such as Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and will allow Americans to better prepare for future storms. Not only will this legislation help Americans rebuild, it will save taxpayers down the road by reducing future recovery costs. While I agree with this amendment, it is disheartening that it took this long for Congress to act to give the people of disaster-struck areas the relief they need.

I do remain deeply concerned with two partisan amendments that were added to the bill on the House floor. The first amendment would pre-empt state and local laws that limit the hours a trucker can drive. This amendment is not only dangerous, but it has no business being in legislation that reauthorizes the FAA. Make no mistake, if this partisan provision is not stripped out by the Senate, truck drivers and all Americans who drive on our interstate system will be less safe.

I am also troubled by an amendment that specifically targets the makeup of the Metropolitan Council in Minnesota. The Lewis Amendment represents an alarming infringement by the Federal Government on the local transit decision-making process in the Twin Cities metro area. By requiring the Metropolitan Council to shift from a citizens' board appointed by the Governor of Minnesota to a locally elected board in order to keep its status as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), this amendment would throw transit planning for the entire Twin Cities metro area into political infighting and chaos. This amendment would stall transit planning for the metro region, significantly threaten future federal funding for Minnesota and inhibit the continued growth of our culturally diverse and economically dynamic metro area. I plan on working with Ranking Member De Fazio and my Senate counterparts to ensure that this misguided and non-germane amendment is removed in conference. I would also like to include in the RECORD an Op-Ed from The Star Tribune as well as a letter from Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton, explaining why this amendment is harmful to Minnesota.

Again, I am pleased that the House of Representatives is finally able to pass this long overdue but bipartisan reauthorization of the FAA. As the 115th Congress moves forward, I hope Congressional Republicans will continue to work with Democrats to invest in America's transportation system.

STATE OF MINNESOTA,

*Saint Paul, MN, April 30, 2018.*

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,

*Senate Majority Leader,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: On April 27, 2018, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 4, FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. As the Senate prepares to take up FAA reauthorization legislation, I urge you not to include language from the House bill that would effectively end the Metropolitan Council's designation as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Twin Cities region of Minnesota.

H.R. 4 will modify a statute relating to MPOs established prior to December 18, 1991, by now requiring local elected officials to